VIII. *An Account of the late Diſcoveries of Antiquities at* Herculaneum; *in an Extract of a Letter from* Camillo Paderni, *Keeper of the* Herculanean Muſeum, *and F. R. S. to* Thomas Hollis, *Eſq*; *dated* Naples, Dec. 16, 1756.

Read Feb. 10, 1757.

IT is probable, that the firſt volume of antique paintings will be publiſhed at Eaſter; in which there will be fifty copper-plates, with obſervations by the academy lately eſtabliſhed here for illuſtrating the antiquities.

Two volumes of the ancient papyrus have been unrolled. One treats of *rhetoric*, and the other is upon *muſic*; and both are written by the ſame author, Philodemus. Il Signor Canonico Mazzocchi, a very learned gentleman of this city, is now tranſlating them from the Greek. There are two perſons conſtantly employed in unrolling other volumes.

In the month of April were found two fine buſts of women, the ſubjects unknown. Alſo a young ſtag, of excellent workmanſhip, upon a baſe. The height of it, from the feet to the top of the head, is three palms and a half. Likewiſe its companion; but broken in many pieces; which however I hope to reſtore.

In May, a ſmall young hog.

In October, a female ſtatue, of middling workmanſhip. Alſo a Silenus, a palm and three inches high, ſtanding upon a ſquare baſe raiſed upon three

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rows of ſteps, which are ſupported at the angles by lions claws. He has a bald head, a long curled beard, a hairy body, and naked feet. The drapery about him is looſe and flowing: the fore-finger of each hand is extended, and all the reſt are cloſed. From his back ariſes a branch above the head, where it divides into two, which, twiſting their foliage round it, fall and ſpread themſelves below the ſhoulders, on each of which a ſtand is placed to fix a lamp. In the middle, betwixt the extremities of theſe two ſmall branches, is a bird reſembling a parroquet. The whole of this figure is in a very good taſte. All theſe things above-mentioned are of bronze.

In November was diſcovered a beautiful marble Terminus, of Greek workmanſhip, as big as the life. It is dreſt in a chlamys; has a young countenance; and the head is covered with a Grecian helmet.

Many other things have alſo been found, as lamps, vaſes, and ſuch-like, in bronze. And we have often met with paintings. If any farther diſcoveries are made, which are remarkable, you may depend on being informed of them.

At preſent my time is much taken up, in a work extremely difficult and tedious; which is this: When the theatre was firſt diſcovered, there were found in it, among other things, ſeveral horſes in bronze, larger than the life; but all of them bruiſed, and broken into many pieces. From this ſad condition they are not yet reſtored. But his majeſty having expreſſed a particular deſire to ſee that effected, if poſſible, with regard to one of them, I reſolved to attempt it; and accordingly have ſet about it.